

SESSION 4: How do Christians apply the ideas of freedom and justice to their ways of living in the world today?



In the New Testament Jesus set out his teaching on how God wanted his followers to behave and act. These were called the new commandments as they encompassed the 10 commandments from the Old Testament into two simple verses.

Love, the Greatest Commandment, Introduction

Hundreds of years later, the Pharisees asked Jesus:



Read this Bible passage from the book of Matthew in the New Testament

Matthew 22:37-40, International Children's Bible

³⁷ Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and most important command. ³⁹ And the second command is like the first: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands."

- What are the two rules about?

Responding to crisis and partnering with local churches

- How do they encompass the 10 commandments given to Moses?

They encompass the 10 commandments by God telling them about it



Here are some scenarios to think about. Read and think about each one.

- How might a Christian respond to these if they follow the two commandments Jesus set out?
 - How might they end differently if the two commandments were not followed?
- Draw or write your responses.



Following the two commandments	Scenario	NOT following the two commandments
Play with someone else	Someone never lets you join in	Having an argument
Trying to help them behave better	Someone is in your group for groupwork but behaves badly or messes about	Shout at them and get frustrated
Talk to them, give them some food and a drink	Someone who you have never met before but who needs your help e.g. a homeless person	Walk away and ignore
Try and help them. E.g (Raise money)	When you see a situation of injustice on the news or in your community.	Turn it off
Ignore them and walk away	When someone is making fun of what you believe	Don't You go and hurt them



There are many Christian charities who seek to bring freedom and fight for justice for people all around the world.

➤ Why do you think Christian charities do this work?

Because there are a lot of areas in countries that are very poor so they are trying to make a change.



Read Orbisa's story - she lives in Ethiopia with her 2 children.

As you read this story, think about how freedom and justice would help this family.



'Life is very challenging here; we have no food and are dependent on our livestock for our livelihood. Whenever there is no rainfall, our animals die as there is no grass or water. This affects our lives significantly. We will not get money or have milk to drink. We have no other option,' says Orbisa.

During the rainy season, Orbisa could collect water from a river just five minutes' walk from her village. As the dry season has extended due to the changing climate, this river has now dried up and no longer provides for Orbisa and her family. **'The water I collect is not sufficient, I am only able to collect less than half of what my family needs each day', she says.** Now, Orbisa has to walk for up to ten hours every day to collect water for her family. Due to the searing heat, Orbisa is forced to start walking before sunrise, often leaving her village at 4am. **The walk is very dangerous as she faces wild animals, including hyenas and leopards.**

'The water I collect is not sufficient, I am only able to collect less than half of what my family needs each day. We need most of it for drinking, but sometimes it is not enough, and my family has to go to bed thirsty. I feel extremely sad whenever I cannot provide water for my children,' says Orbisa.



Tearfund, is a Christian organisation committed to help Orbisa and other people in similar situations.



Tearfund is changing lives, by working with local partners, like Friendship Support Association (FSA), to set up solar-powered wells that will provide clean water closer to communities. This will help to restore hope and give new life for all who live there. Tearfund's mission is to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, responding to crisis and partnering with local churches to bring restoration to those living in poverty.



? ➤ How is Tearfund living out Jesus' two commandments for Orbisa?
To Set up Solar-powered wells that will provide clean water closer to communities.

➤ How is Tearfund bringing freedom and justice to Orbisa?
Responding to crisis and partnering with local churches to bring restoration to those living in poverty

Thinking about all you have read, thought about and learned in this lesson, answer this question:

? ➤ How do Christians apply the ideas of freedom and justice to their ways of living in the world today?

Christians apply the ideas of freedom by trying to serve God and to bring freedom and justice to others, caring for others, bringing health, food and telling the story of Jesus but consequences if needed.

What's Fairtrade?



Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade tackles the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the most vulnerable. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

With Fairtrade you have the power to change the world every day. With simple shopping choices you can get farmers a better deal. And that means they can make their own decisions, control their future and lead the dignified life everyone deserves.

SESSION 5: How can following God bring freedom and justice?



Following Biblical teaching and the example of Jesus, many Christians around the world seek to bring freedom and justice for everyone. They do this in many ways; for example, supporting charities who bring resources or education to communities, sponsor children or farming projects, praying with others for situations of injustice, raising money and awareness and supporting fair trade projects.

Isaiah 1: 17

Learn to do right; seek justice.

Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.



- What do you think this Bible verses teaches Christians about how they should act towards others?

Respect different people's religion.

Extreme poverty, famine, disease, and failed harvest can result in people feeling trapped or 'enslaved' because there seems to be no way out, freedom or hope for the future. All these examples show how Christians are trying to bring people out of 'slavery' and into freedom and hope.

Many people fight for justice for those who are vulnerable, so they can have the same opportunities and resources as people living in other parts of the world.



- Why do you think Christians around the world are fighting for freedom and justice for people?

Because if you vulnerable you can't fight back and your voice won't be heard.

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- Why do you think many Christians choose to buy Fairtrade products?

Because they believe in helping the vulnerable and that what Fairtrade means

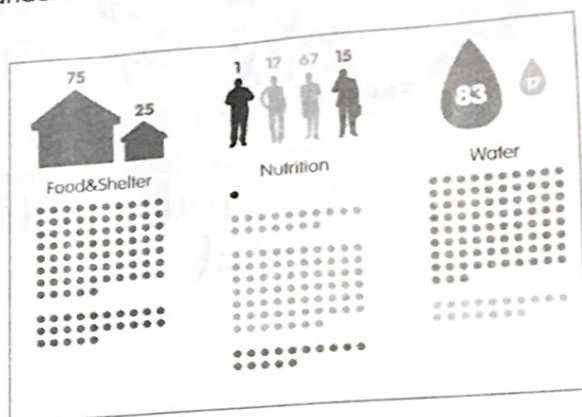
How does it make you feel when you see these figures?

Sad because so many people dying from the lack of food and water and only one person has gone to college

Is it fair that 25 people do not have access to food and shelter? No

Is it fair that 17 people do not have access to clean drinking water? No

Is it fair that 17 people do not have enough to eat so are undernourished and 1 person would die of starvation? No



What response might a Christian give to these figures?

To help each other such as donating a food bank.



If you had to write 10 lessons for living to encourage everyone to bring more freedom and justice to others - what would they be?

RULES FOR LIVING

1	Respect each other's differences.
2	Help each other for those who are very poor
3	Support and encourage your family
4	Every life matters
5	Embrace change
6	To stand up for people who are vulnerable
7	Don't steal
8	Don't kill
9	Be true to you

Its home!
The flower's beautiful scent.
The honey's cooler is beautiful.
bees' bodies.

10

Be there for the elderly

))) Tell me more about why you chose these rules for living.

I chose these because these rules are what really matter and what we need in this world.

Thinking about everything you have learned in this unit answer these questions:

➤ How does following God bring freedom and justice?

To treat each other fairly and if punishment is needed.

➤ Can people who do not follow God bring freedom and justice?

))) Tell me more about your answer

Yes because it doesn't matter if you are a religion or not, you can still help those who need it most.